THE LOYALTY OF THE LAST Long Parliament: OR, A LETTER TO AN English Gentleman AT FLORENCE.

SHEWING,

That the late Parliaments (*Addreſs'd againſt*) did not ſo much Intrench on the PREROGATIVE, as that of XVIII YEARS Continuance, of whom His Majeſty ſaid, *NEVER any KING was ſo happy in a* Houſe *of* Commons, *as I in this.*—King's ANSWER, 20 *Febr.* 1663.

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THE LOYALTY OF THE LAST Long Parliament, And their APPROVERS;

In a LETTER to an Engliſh Gentleman at Florence.

SIR,

I Received yours of *Sept.* 1. *Stilo Novo*, wherein you are pleaſed to diſcover to me your *Sentiments* concerning the ſtate of the Parties among us, and the diviſion of Minds about publick Affairs; whence I readily perceive how obnoxious you that live in *Popiſh* Countries, are to Miſ-informations and Falſe-conceptions of the ſtate of your own Country: For while you take your Meaſures either from publick Prints, or private Letters, written either by the *Popiſh* or *Torkian* Party, (and ſuch are all that are brought over and entertain'd by the Men of *Intelligence* where you are;) You are altogether as unable to give a right Judgment, as he that determines a Cauſe having heard only one Party.

Hence it is, you imagine that we here are now again divided in our Minds and Actings relating to Government, juſt as we were forty years ago, and that they are the ſame Men, or thoſe that ſucceed in the ſame Principles, that are now proſecuting the ſame Ends, even the alteration of Government both in *Church* and *State*, and inſtead of *Epiſcopacy* and *Monarchy*, to intro-

duce *Presbytery* and *Democracy*. Indeed it cannot be wonder'd at that you who have liv'd so many years out of your own Country amongst strangers, should harbour such conceits, when even here (where men have such plentiful means of true Information) the *Popish* and *Mercenary Agents* working upon Prejudice in some, Malice, Envy and Revenge in others; Jealousie in one sort, and affectation of Prudence in another: Prevail with many to forget *Coleman*'s Letters, Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*'s Murder, and the Tryal of my Lord *Stafford*, much more the dreadful Burning of *London*; the the two Armies, one of 73, the other of 78. The Declaration of *Indulgence*, the Popish Designs of *Clifford*, the Impeachment of *Danby*, and the Popish Lords by divers Parliaments; the many Sham-plots, especially that discover'd by *Dangerfield*, or the Meal-tub Plot; the Subornation of Witnesses to take away the Life of the Duke of *Buckingham*, and Dr. *Oates* by odious Accusations; the Assassination of Justice *Arnold*, and Attempts to corrupt *Bedlow*, and others: not to speak of the Tryal and Judgment given and executed upon *Coleman*, and upon *Godfrey*'s Murderers, and upon the *Jesuits*, and many other things, which demonstratively prove the Plot of introducing Popery and Slavery into these Nations, or in *Coleman*'s own phrase, *Of utter subduing a pestilent Heresie, &c.* And according to my Lord *D.* of Governing without a Parliament. It cannot be wonder'd at, I say, that such as you should falsly conceive of the State of these Kingdoms: But if you will have the patience to look a little back upon some few things that are past, and compare them with things present, you will easily perceive that it is not some factious men of Commonwealth Principles, nor the Clamours of Non-conformists against *Popery* and *Arbitrariness*, that forms the discontented and agrieved People among

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us. but it is in truth the old and loyal Friends of the *KING, RELIGION* and *GOVERNMENT* of *England*; such as assisted His Majesty and his Royal Father in their Wars and Councels, and the Successors and Adherents of such who constitute the Bulk of the substantial Men and Protestants in the Nation, with whom the Dissenters joyn and fall in. These are the men who for these nine or ten years last past, have seen and set themselves against the *Popish* and *Arbitrary* Designs carried on by Cabal Councels and Parasites. Indeed the Discovery of the horrid *Popish Plot* and *Treasons* did open the eyes of many, who would not see these mischievous Designs till they had a Meridian Light.

That this is the *Naked Truth*, will appear plainly to you, if you consider, with what earnest desire, joy and applause, His Majesty was restored to his Crown; was ever any people so transported with Joy and Triumph as the people of *England?* Insomuch, that even those who where obnoxious to, and suffered Capital Punishments afterwards, were lull'd into a hope of Impunity by the universal Congratulation. Then as soon as might be, was the King's *Long Parliament* call'd, whilst the people was in this passion, and they chose (to be sure) those especially whom they apprehended most grateful to the King and his Prerogative, and most averse to the Principles and Practices of foregoing times. This appear'd in all the Votes, Addresses, and Bills of that Parliament for many years, wherein they set themselves with all their skill to assert the King's Power and Authority against Parliamentary Pretensions, and had almost rais'd his Revenue to such a prodigious height, that he should never need Supplies from his People. They were so fully addicted to please the King, that he says, *Never any King was so happy in a House of Commons, as He in this.* And surely he judg'd aright concerning them,

Answ. 20 Fe. 1663.

them, if the King's happineſs conſiſt in the Parliaments Concurrence with Cabinet Dictates.

Notwithſtanding the Gentlemen of this Houſe began, after the dreadful Burning of *London*, (which to a Committee of their Houſe was prov'd by many ſhrewd Evidences, to be done by contrivance of the *Papiſts*) to make Addreſſes againſt the *Papiſts* to repreſs their Inſolencies. But in the Year 1672, after the Plotters had procur'd the *Exchequer* to be ſhut up, and the Properties of many Thouſands of the People in it, and that the *Tripple League* (which coſt the people ſo great Sums of Money in favour of it) was diſſolv'd, and a War againſt *Holland* in Conjunction with *France* was commenc'd; and the penal Laws againſt *Papiſts* and *Diſſenters* diſpenc'd with by Declaration: the Commons in Parliament ſaw clearly which way they were driving, and therefore as ſoon as they were permitted to ſit, Addreſt the King againſt that Declaration of *Indulgence*, informing Him, *That penal Statutes in matters Eccleſiaſtical, cannot be ſuſpended but by Act of Parliament.* And though His Majeſty tell them in anſwer, *That they queſtion His Power in Eccleſiaſticks, which he finds not done in the Reign of any of his Anceſtors:* Yet they reply, *That his Majeſty hath been very much miſinformed, ſince no ſuch Power was ever claim'd or exercis'd by any of his Predeceſſors.* In fine, His Majeſty was induced to cancel that Declaration, and declare it ſhould be no Preſident for the future.

br. 4. 72.

Hereupon I would gladly ask our Boaſters of Loyalty, and Exclaimers againſt the late Parliaments, (excepting open and ſecret *Papiſts*, for whoſe Intereſt this Indulgence was procur'd) whether they approv'd of what the King did, or of what the Parliament did in this Affair. If of the Declaration, then they had the *Presbyterians* and *Diſſenters* in Generall on their ſides, owning the Prerogative by taking Licences for exerciſe-

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ing Worſhip and Religion contrary to Law: if they did not approve of the Declaration, but of the Addreſs, then let them acknowledge that at this turn, the *Diſſenters* were more Loyall (as they call it) and greater Adorers of Prerogative then themſelves, and that it is not the King's Prerogative which theſe love, but their own Malignity, and the Prerogative for the ſake of that; ſo that if the King ſhould uſe his Prerogative contrary to their minds, they would be as much againſt it as now they are for it: Judge they as they will concerning it, it's a plain Caſe, that the Parliament, which ſprang out of the moſt Ardent Affection that ever was in a People towards their Prince, and out of the greateſt Deteſtation of Republican Principles, yet reſolv'd that the King was deceiv'd by his Cabal Councillors in a matter, which in the direct conſequence of it *tended to the interrupting the free courſe of the Laws, and altering the Legiſlative Power*. And ſince the diſcovery of *Coleman*'s Letters, I think there's none doubts but that Indulgence was the effect of Popiſh Councils; and the *Papiſts* were the Perſons who deſigned the greateſt advantage to their cauſe by it, If any Favour was intended for *Diſſenters* by it, it's ſtrange that His Majeſty ſhould not paſs a Bill for Nulling of the Rigorous Act of the thirty five of Queen *Elizabeth*, when it had already paſt both Houſes of Parliament.

In the ſame Seſſion of Parliament it was, that the Parliament paſſ'd a Bill for impoſing a Teſt againſt Popery upon all that ſhould bear any Office Civil or Military in the Kingdom, which the Duke of *York* ſubmitting to, had his Commiſſion of High Admiral vacated, but his Advice and Influence ſtill vigorous. By this means alſo my Lord *Clifford* was diſcover'd to be *Popiſh*, and quitted his High Office of Lord Treaſurer and great Miniſter of State. Was it not high time for thoſe in Parlia-

Parliament that had any love to their Religion and Government, to look about 'em? Or was it ſawcily done for the Parliament to concern themſelves with the King's Councellors, and find fault with their managment? Nay, they proceeded ſo far in the next Seſſion, as to Addreſs againſt the conſummation of the Marriage between his Royal Highneſs and the Dutches of *Modena* (which was already done by Proxy) becauſe ſhe was a *Papiſt*. And after they had receiv'd one Anſwer from his Majeſty in this matter, The Commons in Parliament proceed to give their reaſons againſt it; *praying him to relieve his Subjects from thoſe fears and apprehenſions which at preſent they lie under, from the Progreſs made in that Treaty——That for another Age at the leaſt, this Kingdom will be under continnal Apprehenſions of the* GROWTH *of* POPERY. *And the danger of the Proteſtant Religion.* Here we ſee that the language of fears and apprehenſions of the *Growth of Popery*, and danger of Proteſtantiſm, is as well the language of the King's happieſt Parliament, that ever was, as of the unhappieſt Parliament of Forty One.

Octo. 31. 1673.

Three days after this, they Addreſs to his Majeſty for a General Faſt, and that upon theſe Grounds, (viz.) *Being paſſionately ſenſible of the Calamitous condition of this Kingdom, not only by reaſon of the War* (which was then mannaged againſt the Dutch) *wherein it is at preſent involved, but many other inteſtine differences and diviſions amongſt us, which are chiefly occaſioned by the undermining contrivances of Popiſh Recuſants, whoſe numbers and inſolencies are greatly of late increaſed, and whoſe reſtleſs practiſes threaten a* Subverſion *both of Church and State.* What is the difference now between this Seventy Three Parliament, and that of Forty One.

Feb. 7. Following, they ſhew there reſentment of the *Black-heath* Army, and reſolve, *That the continuing of any*

any ſtanding forces in this Nation, other than the Militia *is a great grievance and vexation to the People.* What? This Loyal Parliament talk of grievances and vexation to the People in the King's management of his Prerogative.

This Houſe of Commons (as well as ſome that have been ſince) take upon them to pray the King to remove ſome of his Great Councellors from his Preſence and their Publick Imployments. But their Addreſs againſt Duke *Lauderdale, Feb.* 23. 75. is very remarkable, both for the matter and language of it; for thus they ſay—— *Though we have great cauſe to reſt aſſured of the continuance of your Majeſties Gracious Diſpoſition towards us, yet we find upon a ſerious examination of the State of this Kingdom, that there is a great jealouſie ariſen from ſome State-proceedings in the Hearts of your Subjects; That ſome Perſons in great imployment under your Majeſty have fomented deſigns, contrary to the Intereſt of your Majeſty and People, intending to deprive us of our antient Rights and Liberties, that thereby they might the more eaſily introduce the Popiſh Religion, and an* ARBITRARY *Form of* GOVERNMENT, *to the Ruine and Deſtruction of the whole Kingdom.* Here's a Charge with a Witneſs: all the worſt of Forty one Forms of Declaiming againſt the Government. This is the Generall Charge; let's hear the Particular——*The ſaid Duke of* Lauderdale *did Publickly affirm in the Preſence of your Majeſty ſitting in Council; And before divers of your Majeſties Subjects then attending, that your Majeſties Edicts ought to be obeyed, for your Majeſties Edicts are equal with Laws, and ought to be obſerved in the firſt place. Thereby juſtifying the ſaid Declaration* [of 15 March, 71.] *and the proceedings thereupon, and declaring his Inclinations to* Arbitrary Councels, *in terrour of your Majeſties good Subjects.* They conclude thus; *We do therefore in all humility implore your Sacred*

Majesty---That for the ease of the hearts of your people, who are possest with extream grief and sorrow to see your Majesty thus ABUSED, and the Kingdom endangered; That your Majesty would graciously be pleased to remove the said Duke of Lauderdale *from all his Imployments, &c.* Is not this Writing after the 41 Copy? Is not this striking at His Majesty and the Government through his Ministers sides? What! that House of Commons tell His Majesty he is *abused*, and the Kingdom *endanger'd*, which was chosen, and nourish'd, and indulg'd for 18 years together, to be an ensample to all succeeding Parliaments.

But to proceed in His Majesties Answer to their Address of the 20, or 26th of *May*, 77. advising him to enter into a *League Offensive* and *Defensive* with the *States* against *France*: He tells them, *How highly he was offended at that great invasion of his Prerogative.* And in His Majesties Answer to their Address of *Jan.* 31, he reminds them of it: *But* (says He) *you take no notice of it, but on the contrary, add to your former ill Conduct, new Invasions equally offensive to His Majesties Authority, as contrary to His* (*and He thinks*) *most other mens judgments.* Unhappy House of Commons now, how ever happy heretofore, thus to interfere with His Maiesties Authority and Judgment too.

This sharp *Answer* and *Reproof* bears date 4th of *Febr.* 77. but in *March* following the Parliament having prepar'd a Poll-Bill for furnishing His Majesty with money, for entring into an actual War against the *French King*, His Majesty past that Bill, *March* 20. Thns with great vigour and animosity, to the universal joy of the whole Nation, Drums were beat up, and all preparations made for the War, and a bitter Book, intituled, *Christianissimus christianandus*, published by Allowance, against the *French*; but the Conspiritors at Court intended no such thing, for the then Lord Treasurer's Letter to Mr. *Montague*

tague then Ambaſſador in the *French* Court, bares date 5 daies after, *viz. Mar.* 25. wherein he gives him directions for propoſing Conditions of Peace between the King and ours with the Confederates, and ſuch as for which (ſays he) *the King expects to have ſix Millions of Livers yearly for three years——— becauſe* (he adds) *it will be two or three years before he can hope to find his Parliament in humour to give him ſupplies, after the having made any Peace with* France. This I take notice of, to let you ſee, Sir, how different Sentiments and Deſigns that Prerogative Parliament and the great Miniſters had in the tranſacting of State-matters. But before this Letter was diſcover'd, the Commons in their Addreſs of *May*, 10, 78. did deeply reſent the Councils the King took in theſe Affairs. 'For they tell his Majeſty, that the re-'fuſing of their advice [given the 26 of *May* before, and 'reiterated the 31 of *January* enſuing] and diſmiſſing 'the Parliament in *May* laſt, was the accaſion of theſe 'ill Conſequences, which have ſince ſucceeded both at 'home and abroad. All which have ariſen from thoſe 'miſrepreſentations (ſay they) of our proceedingss 'which have been ſuggeſted to your Majeſty by ſome 'particular perſons in a Clandeſtine way, without the 'Participation and Advice, as we conceive, of your 'Council-board, as though we had invaded upon your 'Majeſties Prerogative of making Peace and War: 'Whereas we did only, *&c.* upon which Grounds your 'Majeſty was induced to give us ſuch Anſwers, to thoſe 'two Addreſſes rejecting our advice, as thereby your 'Majeſties good Subjects have been infinitely diſcoura-'ged, and the State of your Majeſties Affairs reduced to 'a moſt *deplorable* condition. We do therefore moſt 'humbly deſire, that for the good and ſafety of this 'Kingdom and the ſatisfaction of your Subjects, your 'Majeſty would Graciouſly be pleaſed to remove thoſe 'Councellors, *&c*,

These things were done and said by this Parliament, even before the discovery of the horrid Popish Plot, and Treasons. For how vigorously they acted after that discovery in the Prosecution of *Coleman*, the *Jesuits* and *Godfrey*'s Murderers, in the Impeachment of the Popish Lords and *Danby*, for High Treason, in throwing out the Popish Lords from sitting in the Lords House, and other matters, (for which they were subjected to an Honourable Death or Dissolution) I shall not need to mention, because they are fresh in every ones memory: One thing of an elder date I will call to mind, wherein the temper of that House against Popish and Arbitrary designs, does notably appear it was their rejecting of two Bills past in the House of Lords, and sent down to the Commons, The one was tituled, *An Act for the more effectual Conviction and Prosecution of Popish Recusants*; which they rejected with great contempt, for being ready to put the question for throwing it out, it was mov'd they should stop a while to see if any Member of their House had the face to speak for it. It appearing so evidently to them that this Bill tended directly contrary to its Title. The other Bill was to be *An Act for further securing of the Protestant Religion, by Educating the Children of the Royal Family therein, and for the providing for the continuance of a Protestant Clergy.* In this Bill there was a Test to be presented to every future King and Queen of this Realm against Popery. A fine Project, which clearly implied, that any King or Queen in future may be a *Papist*, and then the security of the Protestant Religion, *&c.* was to lye in this *Paper-Statute*, Maugre all the Wit, Policy, Craft, Power, secret and open violence of all *Jesuits*, and *Papists* with the Crown of *England* on their sides. But the Commons rejecting this, did not only shew disaffection to Popish Cabal Councils, but also their judgment in seeing

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into the malice of those contrivancies, that had already over reach'd the House of Peers with the Bishops in it, and that in the great concern of Religion their proper Province.

But because the Impeachment of the Earl of *Danby*, is a full discovery of the sence of that House touching Court Councils and Actions, give me leave to mind you of it more particularly.

The first Article saith, *That he hath Trayterously encroacht to himself Royal Power, by treating in matters of Peace and War with Forraign Ministers*, &c. *against the Express Declaration of His Majesty and His Parliament, &c.* For when the King at the instance of the Parliament, had made provision for War, had raised an Army, and money for that end. Then did he treat of peace with the *French* Ministers, and with the *French* King by the *English* Ambassador, as aforesaid.

The second Article, *That he hath Trayterously endeavoured to* subvert *the antient and well establisht Form of Government in this Kingdom, and instead thereof to introduce an Arbitrary and Tyrannical way of Government, and the better to effect this His purpose he did design the raising of an Army, upon pretence of a War against the* French *King*; *and to continue the same as a standing Army within this Kingdom:* And mis-imployed the money given for the disbanding of that Army to the continuance of it.

3. Article, *That he Traiterously intending to hinder the Meetings of Parliaments, and to deprive His Majesty of their Council, and thereby to alter the constitution of the Government, did negotiate a Peace for the* French *King*—*for the doing whereof he endeavoured to procure a great summ of money of him; for the carrying on his Trayterous designs.*

4. Article, *That he is Popishly affected, and hath Trayterously*,

terously concealed the late horrid Popish Plot——and hath suppress't the Evidence, and reproachfully discountenanc'd the Kings Witnesses, &c.

5. Article, *That he hath wasted the Kings Treasure, by issuing out of His Majesties* Exchequer*——for unnecessary Pensions and secret services, to the value of* 231602. l. *within two years*, &c.

6. Article, *That he hath by indirect means procured from His Majesty to himself, divers considerable Gifts and Grants of Inheritance of the antient Revenue of the Crown, even contrary to Acts of Parliament.*

Here we have a great Favorite, and mighty Minister of State accused for High Treason, in respect of great Transactions of Government for a long time together: And the accused person thought not fit to stand upon his justification, and put himself upon his Tryal, but pleads his Majesties pardon, thereby implicitely confessing his guilt. And that is of the highest nature that can be, no less then subverting the antient and well established Form of Government in this Kingdom, and introducing an Arbitrary and Tyranical way of Government.

But that which is more to my purpose is, the consideration of the persons that exhibit this charge, I have told you already who they were, such a House of Commons, so Loyal, so oblig'd in Interest and Affections to Prerogative, so abominating all Principles and pretences against it, or that may seek to intrench upon it, as never can a better on that account be expected in *England*; now if this House find such horrid Crimes in Court-councellors. And if the three Parliaments we have had since, have but proceeded in the same Methods which this Parliament took, and led them into, then the inference from these Premises are very Obvious; as,

1. That the Court is in the Opinion of the Kings best Subjects and Friends liable to be abus'd by not only ill and

and hurtfull, but by treasonous, and destructive Councels.

2. That (which is the thing I under took to shew you) not only the best, the wisest, the loyalest, but the Body of the Nation is of this mind, and will ever be so, as there is great reason to conclude.

3, That they who would perswade His Majesty and the People, that the actions of the late Parliament which are but the same, or of the very same Nature with those of this Long Parliament are irrugelar, factious, seditious, injurious to the Kings Prerogative and the Government, do in plain consequence find fault with the constitution of the Government and legislative Power of *England*, by King, Lords and Commons, and desire and endeavour the subverting of it.

That the Body of the People, the loyalest, and most substantial part of the Nation is thus minded and will in reason alwaies be so, appears from the Nature of the Long Parliament and the continuance of it, and the Successors of it. For that Parliament continued about 18 years, and we have had three since in these 3 years, and all agreeing in the same Councels, in opposition to Court Councels and actings. Now if the People can never be expected in any circumstances, to be better inclin'd to chuse a Prerogative Parliament than they were at the choice of that, and that the Parliaments since have been of the same temper and judgment, and this for 21 years, 3 lives of single persons, how can it be imagin'd we should ever have a more Prerogative Parliament. And then my third Inference follows, that they who Inveigh against these Parliaments, do in true construction inveigh against the constitution of Parliaments in *England*, and desires the Subversion of the Government. For if all the Individuals be naught the Species must needs be naught, which subsists in these Individuals. If all

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Parliaments that have been theſe threeſcore years have been in theſe mens Opinion ſeditious and injurious to the Kings Rights, and are ever like to be ſo, ſurely there ought to be a Reformation, for injury ought not to be done to the Kings Rights, and there remains no way to remedy this but the alteration of the antient *Engliſh* conſtitution, and either to throw off Parliaments wholly, or to reduce them to the preſent State of the *French* Parliaments, that they may not dare to oppoſe, or not to affirm and ratifie every of the Kings Edicts, or according to the *Scoth* Oracle, Duke *Lauderdale*, *That the Kings Edicts are not only equal to Laws, but ought to be obeyed in the firſt place.*

Now I hope Sir, you cannot imagine that the Body of the People can be weary of their Old *Engliſh* Government, or that any but ſuch as I ſpoke of at firſt, perſons obxnoious to the Juſtice of Parliaments, their Friends and Favourers, Deputies, the envious and revengeful *Papiſts*, or indifferent to any Religion, or thoſe that hate all that are not of their minds, or whoſe Intereſt it is to deſire a *French* Government, together with ſome dull Spirits that think it the only way to peace and quietneſs, yield up all to Court-councels of what kind ſo ever; ſuch as theſe are the Party, the Faction, the Clamorers againſt the late Parliaments, and in them againſt all *Engliſh* Parliaments whatſoever.

Here, Sir, I that to have concluded, having in my Opinion ſaid enough to ſhew that the preſent Lovers of Parliament Councels, are both the greateſt part or body of the Kingdom (which appears from their choice of Repreſentatives, for the Commons in Parliament do beſt ſpeak the Voice of the people) and alſo the moſt loyal and true Lovers of His Majeſty and the *Engliſh* Government, but I crave your leave to add ſome more things that occur to my mind in reference to this matter.

And

And you may remember (if at least you were then in *England*) that in the Year 75. there was a great Conteſt between the Lords Houſe and the Houſe of Commons, about Priviledges, inſomuch that the Lords enter'd into a Debate, and put the Queſtion, Whether they ſhould Petition His Majeſty to diſſolve that Parliament and call a new one, which had been carried in the Affirmative, if they had decided it by the greater number of Lords, then preſent at the Debate; but they but they call'd in the Aid of Voices by *Proxy*, and ſo concluded it Negatively: thereupon the affirming Lords make Proteſtation againſt it, and give their Reaſons; which Reaſons and many other Objections againſt the continuance of that Parliament, were anſwered in a *Pamphlet*, intituled, *A Packet of Advices to the Men of* Shaftsbury: which tho' it was written by a mercenary Pen, yet there's no doubt (that I ever heard) of it's being written at the Inſtigation of the then *Lord Treaſurer*, and contains as high praiſes of that Parliament as can be given; I'le inſtance but in one or two paſſages, *pa.* 15. — *A Parliament* (ſaith that Author) *which hath had the honour to re-ſettle the Crown and Kingdom, after it had, by a wonderful hand of God, been but newly reſcu'd out of the ruines of a late Rebellion*; a Parliament *that hath done perhaps more for the preſervation of this well-temper'd* Monarchy, *than many other of the beſt* Parliaments *put together ever did before: and I may boldly ſay, becauſe it can be prov'd by Inſtances of Fact, that they have done more towards the containing of* Monarchy Power, *in its juſt bounds, than any* Parliament *ever did, that may be counted to have been the moſt popular and publick hearted. And* p. 56. *the generality of this* Houſe of Commons *are known to be men of the beſt Quality and of Eſtates, and of the beſt Underſtanding; they underſtand what the true Intereſt of the* Crown *is, and — as they have ever been, ſo they ſtill are right and firm to it and the Government.* This was the Earl of *D.* judgment of this Houſe in thoſe days; but when they came to Impeach him of *High Treaſon*, then the dangers of Diſſolving them are quite blown away; and now it's advisable that His Majeſty

ſhould meet his People in frequent *Parliaments*. I would ask the Clamores againſt the late *Parliaments*, Whether they did not heartily approve of the Character given to that *Parliament* in the Book cited, and of the *Treaſurer* and other Councellors Advice to continue it? If they did, how can they think that good Counſel which induced his Majeſty to Diſſolve it; and that at a time when the people were never more full of Fears of the Deſigns of *Papiſts* againſt the *King's Life*, the Religion and Government of the Kingdom? Or was this Houſe of Parliament all of a ſuddain fallen from their Loyalty, their Underſtanding and firmneſs to the Crown and Government? There was a long Bill of Penſioners ſaid to be found amongſt them, ſuch as the Treaſurer had gratified with the Sum of 231602 *l.* in two years time; I preſume theſe were not the cauſe of their Diſſolution: It was not the Treaſurers Intereſt to caſt of theſe Servants, whom he bought at ſo dear a rate. It was the generality of that Houſe which he had by his Agent ſo much extoll'd, whom he now falls out with, and by whoſe Influence, judge you, they were diſſolv'd! What clearer Demonſtration would any man have, that the *Cabal Councellors*, and the moſt ſubſtantial and loyal people of the Kingdom were now at odds: For to be ſure thoſe Members of this Parliament which had behav'd themſelves well, and according to the minds of thoſe moſt loyal Freeholders, Citizens and Burgeſſers that choſe them at firſt, would be in high eſtates with them ſtill; and this they manifeſted by chooſing them into the Parliaments that ſucceeded. Accordingly we find near 200 beſides Court-dependants of the ſame individual men in the next Parliament. Thoſe that were left out, were either Penſioners or Dependants on *Cabal Councellors*: Thoſe that were choſen were the ableſt men of Parts and eſtates; whence it came to paſs, that theſe were the leading-men ſtill in the Houſe of Commons, and thereforet read in the very ſame ſteps, and proſecuted the Treaſurer and his Adherents, the *Papiſts* and their Abbetters, juſt as they had done before; with only this advantage, that they were

freed

freed from a heavy clog of Court-pensioners, where by they were more unanimous and more uniform in their Votes and Addresses, than they could be whilst those were among them.

But we have a greater Testimony than this, that *Cabal Councils* and *Parliament Councils* were at a great distance; for His Majesty himself in his *Declaration* of *April* 20. 79. whilst this new Parliament was sitting, for the dissolution of his Old *Privy Council*, and the choosing a new one, tells us; *That He had been induc'd to use the Advices of some few for many years past: He is sorry for the ill success he has found in this course, and sensible of the ill posture of Affairs from that, and some unhappy Accidents, which have raised great Jealousies and Dissatisfactions among his good Subjects, and thereby left the Crown and Government in a Condition too weak for those Dangers we have reason to fear both at home and abroad.* Hereupon he resolves for the future to take the Advice of this *Privy Council* and the *Parliaments*.

I think this is an unexceptionable Evidence of the illness of *Cabal Councellors*, and the great difference between them and *Parliaments*: And I hope men shall not incur the reproach of *Disloyal*, *Fanatick*, *Whigs*, *Enemies to the King and Government*, *&c.* for adhearing to, and commending the Counsels and Actions of Four *Parliaments* successively, whereof the 18 years *Parliament* has such Testimonies to their Ability and Loyalty, as they surpass in their opinion for any that has gone before them, or that in moral possibility can come after them; excepting those that have already succeeded them, wherein their very selves made the most considerable and leading number: insomuch that all these Four *Parliaments* may in reason be reckon'd One *Long Parliament*, with this difference, that in the Three last they were reform'd and purg'd from many diseased and corrupt Members, which had been poyson'd by *Courts Empericks*: Shall men, I say, be made Enemies for adhering to this House of Parliament, which represents both the Persons, Judgments and Affections of all the substantial and unbyass'd Commons of *England*? And that against either the same Councellors, or those that suc-

ceed them in the same Spirit; especially at the time, when the only security of the *Papists* and guilty *Cabaliers*, and the only hope they have of carrying on their Plots and Designs, lies in fomenting these Differences and Animosities among His Majesties Protestant Subjects, and hindring the effectual sitting of Parliaments: How many Sham-plots have they set on foot, to throw guilt upon these Protestants that are most eager in their Prosecution. How many persons have they labour'd to Suborn to charge Treason, to take away at once the Lives and Innocency of those whose only security lies under Divine Providence, in the safety of the King and the Government, can you think Sir, that any other persons can possibly be in these endeavours, and in that party but such as I have already discribed unto you? You hear perhaps of many Addresses, which disaprove of the late Parliament-councels and actions, and they are said to come from numerous Bodies of men: But I conceive you will easily grant, that the temper of their Representatives in Parliament doth better shew the temper of the People than those Addresses, which many times are gained by sinister Arts, and from a few that take upon them the Name of the Many.

Besides there is so much clear reason and wisdom in the House of Commons assembled in Councels, that even those persons that are chosen by the *Caballers* Interest, if at least they have any sparks of Ingenuity left in them, do sometimes become quite other men, and have other Sentiments than they had before.

Have we not known some, who by this change have reap'd the Curses and Dam'ems of their Electors; so that the mind of the people cannot be known till they meet together in Parliament. And I perswade my self that many of those that are now of a contrary mind, could they but be admitted to hear the Debates in Parliament, would give their Suffrage to the same things they condemn. But I seem now to have said enough in this matter, tho' very little to what might be said, and almost all I have said is plain matter of Fact: As for my reasoning a little upon it, I refer it to your judgment whether it is not genuine and clear. But if you chance to shew my Letter to any of your *Popish Conversants*, they'l turn it off with a scoff, and think you must take that for an Answer; but they are much mistaken in you, or else I am, who still retain that hearty affection for you, which I profest at your departure hence; and I am sure I shall never cease to love you, and hope I shall never have any cause not to Honour you for your Affection to all true *Protestants* and Lovers of *English Government*.

Sir,

Yours, &c. T. B.